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LRB095 18782 GRL 45094 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of John Barry McRaith of Lincolnwood, who passed away on December 20, 2007; and

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WHEREAS, John Barry McRaith was born on September 4, 1939 in Louisville, Kentucky and grew up in Evanston; he was president of Loyola Academy's Class of 1957 and a star golfer, winning a scholarship to Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio; during his first year in college, his father died, leading him to return home to help support his mother and siblings; he took a job managing Evanston's municipal golf course, working there for several years; and

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WHEREAS, In 1969, John Barry McRaith and Loyola Academy classmate Pat Kearney purchased the Sethness-Greenleaf Company, where he served as President and CEO for 38 years; due to Mr. McRaith's vision, personality, charisma, and leadership, Sethness-Greenleaf grew into an international company, becoming the supplier of Green River Soda, flavorings for the Fat Tuesday's restaurant chain and the Arbor Mist line of wines, and the world famous green dye used in the famous St. Patrick's Day tradition of dyeing the Chicago River green; and

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WHEREAS, John Barry McRaith was well known in the business

1 world for his unique form of leadership, which focused on a  
2 personal touch with employees and customers; he eschewed the  
3 use of voicemail or e-mail in his various dealings; and

4 WHEREAS, John Barry McRaith was active with several  
5 charities and civic organizations, including the Boys  
6 Hope/Girls Hope, Meet the Wilderness, American Foundation for  
7 Suicide Prevention, Howard Area Community Center, the  
8 Sheffield Neighborhood Association, and Loyola Academy; he  
9 also served as chairman of the board at the Addolorata Villa  
10 Retirement Center; and

11 WHEREAS, John Barry McRaith's passions included his large  
12 family, golfing, and traveling; he was an avid Chicago sports  
13 fan, holding season tickets for the Chicago Bears, Chicago  
14 Bulls, Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox, and the Northwestern  
15 Wildcats Football and Basketball for many years; and

16 WHEREAS, John Barry McRaith is survived by his children,  
17 Barry Jr. (Carol), Kevin, Michael, Meaghan (Con) Egan, and  
18 Brigid; his sisters, Mary Ann, Kathleen (Lloyd) Maday, Brigid  
19 (Patrick) Hughes, and Maureen (Jay) McGowan; his brother,  
20 Thomas (Jimmie); and his six grandchildren, Allie, Fiona,  
21 Joseph Barry, Sam, Juliette, and Sean; therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with  
2 his family and friends, the passing of John Barry McRaith; and  
3 be it further

4 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
5 presented to the family of John Barry McRaith as an expression  
6 of our sympathy.